

REMARKS

Claims 75-83, 85-114, and 145-164 were pending in this application. Claim 83 was canceled. Claims 75, 78, 91, 96-98, 104-105, 108, 112-114, 153, 156 and 158-160 were amended. Claims 165-168 were added. Therefore, claims 75-82, 85-114, and 145-168 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claim 83. Applicant has canceled this claim and added new claim 164 that is believed to correspond to claim 83. Newly added claim 164 and its dependent claims are thus believed allowable.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected the pending independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on the previously cited Codignotto reference, U.S. Patent No. 7,032,030. Applicant incorporates by reference herein its remarks concerning this reference made in the previous response to Office Action. In a telephone conference with the Examiner of February 21, 2008, the undersigned explained Applicant's position that Codignotto did not teach at least the "associating" step of (for example) claim 75. Applicant maintains that position. Nevertheless, after some discussion, Applicant stated that it would include further two additional steps in claim 75 and the other independent claims. These two limitations are found in the present amendment. In view of these changes, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102 rejections.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5957-02200/DMM.

Respectfully submitted,

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